

County of San Diego
Revised: November 6, 2001
Reviewed: Spring 2003

FIRE CODE SPECIALIST I
FIRE CODE SPECIALIST II

Class No. 003663
Class No. 003671

DEFINITION:

To coordinate the fire plan check activities and perform fire code inspections; and to perform related work.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:

Fire Code Specialist I, and II are specialized building inspector classes found only in the Department of Planning and Land Use. These classes are responsible for the interpretation and enforcement of the County Fire Code, the review and coordination of plans and specifications with respect to fire standards and fire protection features, and the performance of field inspections. This class differs from other inspection classes by the specialized training and certification in fire science.

Fire Code Specialist I:

This is the entry-level class in the Fire Code Specialist series. Under supervision, incumbents perform fire code inspection work and assist building staff on matters related to fire protection and fire prevention.

Fire Code Specialist II:

This is the journey level class in the Fire Code Specialist series. Under general supervision, incumbents perform the most difficult fire plan checking of construction plans and specifications.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES:

Coordinates fire plan checking of single-family dwellings and accessory structures with fire districts, including all structures outside of fire districts; reviews and conditions all subdivisions and discretionary permits outside of fire districts; examines construction plans and specification of residential, commercial, industrial, and public occupancy buildings, and recommends any changes necessary for compliance with fire standards related to sprinkler systems, fire hydrants, standpipe, fire alarm systems, and other suitable fire protection features; interprets and enforces the latest edition of the County Fire Code; serves as a technical expert on all matters related to fire codes and trains inspection staff in the techniques of fire protection inspection, changes in methods, materials or requirements; promotes uniform and compatible fire code regulations, plan check and plan approval practices between fire districts; provides information concerning fire code changes and provisions on protection recommendations on subdivisions and use permits relative to water storage, piping sizes, cross sectional adequacy of roads to support fire equipment, hydrants, etc.; implements the enforcement of adopted legislation, regulations, codes and ordinances related to fire protection; and develops hand outs and educational materials related to fire prevention.

Fire Code Specialist II:

All the duties listed above and: performs the most difficult field inspections; and prepares responses to proposed State fire safety code legislation.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Knowledge Level: T = Thorough; G = General; -- = Not Applicable

Classification Level: I = Fire Code Specialist I
 II = Fire Code Specialist II

Knowledge of:

<u>I</u>	<u>II</u>	
G	G	California Health and Safety Code.
G	G	California Public Resources Code.
G	T	All applicable safety codes, ordinances and laws relating to fire prevention, County Fire Code, and Uniform Building Code as related to fire safety.
G	T	Hazard Reduction Programs.
G	T	Maintenance of fire protection and the elimination of fire hazards on land and in buildings, including those under construction.
T	T	Fundamentals of engineering as they apply to fire prevention and protection.
T	T	Principles of defensible space relating to wild fire hazards.
T	T	California Administrative Code, Title 19, Title 24, and Title 25.
T	T	Fire extinguishing and alarm systems and equipment.
T	T	Building materials and construction.
T	T	Fire prevention standards established by the National Fire Protection Association.
T	T	Principles of water systems engineering relative to fire prevention and protection.
T	T	Principles of combustion.
T	T	Modern fire fighting methods and equipment methods.

Skills and Abilities to:

The following apply to both classes:

- Perform fire prevention inspections.
- Evaluate fire protection and alarm systems and equipment.
- Review building plans.
- Adapt standard fire protection practices and procedures to local requirements.
- Evaluate and enforce defensible space requirements relating to wild fire hazards.
- Interpret laws, ordinances, regulations, and codes pertaining to fire prevention and life safety.
- Train others in fire code regulations, fire protection, inspection and related subjects.
- Prepare clear and concise written correspondence, reports and records.
- Establish and maintain cooperative and effective relations with those contacted during the course of work.
- Communicate effectively both orally and in writing.

EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE:

Education, training, and experience which clearly demonstrate possession of the knowledge, skills and abilities stated above. Examples of qualifying education/experience are:

Fire Code Specialist I:

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An Associate of Science degree from an accredited community college in fire science; AND, and five (5) years of fire protection experience in an organized fire protection agency that included two (2) years of fire experience in an organized fire prevention program.

Fire Code Specialist II:

An Associate of Science degree as stated above in fire science; AND, seven (7) years of fire protection experience in an organized fire protection agency that included three (3) years of fire prevention in an organized program.

Note: Additional qualifying experience may substitute for the education on a year-to-year basis.

SPECIAL NOTES, LICENSES, OR REQUIREMENTS:

License:

A valid California Class C driver's license or the ability to arrange transportation for field travel is required at time of appointment and must be maintained throughout employment. Employees in this class may be required to use their own personal vehicle.

Certification:

Current certification as a Uniform Fire Code Inspector issued by the International Fire Code Institute.